



Crop Progress and Condition

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Agricultural News: The month of January was mostly cold and snowy; Winter Storm Jonas brought close to three feet of snow to parts of the State. At the end of the month, temperatures warmed up and helped melt some of the snow. The soil is very wet and has limited field work. Farming activities for the month included soil testing, applying lime and fertilizers, and attending educational programs. High temperatures for the month were in the 60s, and lows were mostly in the teens. Monthly precipitation amounts ranged from two inches to almost five inches.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 01/31/16

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Barley	-	-	13	75	12
Oats	-	-	27	73	-
Winter wheat	-	2	26	63	9
Pasture	12	18	31	34	5
Livestock	1	10	26	53	10

-Represents zero.

Forage Percent Obtained from Pastures	This Month	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%
Feed Obtained from Pastures	15	17	-

- Represents data not available.

Weather Summary- For the week ending January 31, 2016

City	Temperature						Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Last Week	Since Dec. 1	Dec. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	46	21	53	13	34	-1	0.01	7.73	1.35	2.77	-0.37
Norfolk	52	31	66	23	42	2	0.03	7.99	1.45	4.62	1.10
Richmond	46	23	55	15	35	-1	0.01	9.24	2.92	3.30	0.10
Roanoke	45	24	51	20	34	-2	0.00	7.54	1.83	2.99	0.12
Wash/Dulles	43	14	51	04	29	-3	0.02	7.85	2.04	4.09	1.35

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. NA-Not available. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY – Comments are based on remarks made by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FAIRFAX (Adria Bordas)
Soil is very wet, lots of snow melt this week.

FAUQUIER (Timothy Mize)

The snow should be gone this week. Looks like we dodged a bullet, very little damage. Flooding has been minimal.

LOUDOUN (Jim Hilleary)

Have not been able to see the ground since one week ago. Snow accumulations exceeded 34".

ROCKINGHAM (Doug Horn)

The relatively mild winter was interrupted in the third week of January. Rockingham County received a single snowfall of 20-25 inches. Some single digit low temperatures were also recorded.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)

January started wet and mild but seasonally normal temperatures characterized most of the month with a few mornings reaching single digit temperatures. The one snow event was January 22 and snowfall totals ranged from 10 to 20 inches in Rockbridge. Farm activities were typical for January with much time and effort devoted to snow removal January 23 - 25.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Laura Siegle)

Conditions currently are very wet due to rain and the snowstorm this month. Producers are unable to do much field work at this time.

AMHERST (Alyssa Elliott)

The snow storm on Jan. 22-23 averaged 8-10 inches and was followed by quick melting and mud.

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

The recent winter snowstorm still has the pastures covered with snow.

CHESTERFIELD (Charlotte Maxwell)

Parts of the county got over 10 inches of snow the last week of January.

EASTERN

CHARLES CITY (John Allison)

The snow makes it difficult to be accurate with this survey.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Farmers spent early January preparing for the 2016 crop season by attending educational programs and making seed purchases. Some soil sampling was done early in the month prior to the snowstorm that hit on January 22nd. Farmers spent the last week of the month pushing snow and recovering from the snowstorm. Fortunately, very little damage was reported from the storm.

GLOUCESTER (David Moore)

Things are wet following 8-12 inches of snow here. Small grains look pretty good, but a little "burnt" from the cold. Not much going on with farm activity right now, some supply purchases and educational events mostly. Reading soil samples and making liming and fertilizer divisions. Those with livestock are working to keep them warm and fed. Forecasts call for warmer than normal temps and not a lot of precipitation in the near future which may stir some field activity.

NORTHAMPTON (Ursula Deitch)

It has been an abnormally warm January. There was a cold snap that should have helped with the powdery mildew issue on winter wheat.

SOUTHWESTERN

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Following an unusually mild December, the cold weather arrived in January stopping plant growth. About 10 inches of snow arrived on January 22 and some fields continued to have snow cover until the end of the month.

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Heavy snow limited pasture access. Snowfall ranged from 8 to 15 inches so it was not as bad as areas to our North and East. As snow melts, animals are picking at new growth.

SOUTHERN

HENRY (Melanie Barrow)

Henry County received approximately 8-12 inches of snow January 22-23, with smaller amounts recorded in the South to Southeastern part of the county and larger amounts reported in the North and Northwestern part of the county. Accumulating snow would most likely had been higher, but there was approximately 5 hours of sleet that fell in the early morning hours of January 23. Warming temperatures on January 29-31st quickly melted remaining snow in the area.

SOUTHEASTERN

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Warm temperatures in the first half of January continued to encourage small grain and forage growth. The last two weeks have brought more normal winter weather. Field work activities have consisted of some herbicide and fertilizer applications to small grains. Some soil testing occurred and lime applications were also made. Most growers are still working on their crop mix for 2016 based on projected crop prices.

SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)

Spring like weather has returned after winter settled in for a few days. Growers are trying to figure out what to plant in 2016 for a profit.